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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/971,834	10/05/2001	Ajit Nair	100.249US01	4298

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EXAMINER

REFAI, RAMSEY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/971,834	NAIR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ramsey Refai	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/24/03, 4/23/03, 9/26/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-14 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 3, 5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 3 recites the limitation "it" in line 3. Claim 5 recites the limitation "its" in line 7. Claim 8 recites the limitation "its" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fenger et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,659).

6. As per claim 1, Fenger et al teach a network system, comprising:
a central directory server (**Figure 1, primary server 1**); and
a plurality of provisioning servers (**Figure 1, secondary server 2; and column 2, lines 24-40**), each provisioning server receiving specific configuration information from the central directory server for provisioning the provisioning server, and receiving global information for provisioning user access devices (**column 1, line 40 - column 2, line 40**).
7. As per claim 2, Fenger et al teach a database structure on the directory server with global and unique sections (**column 1, lines 60- column 2, lines 56**), the global section containing provisioning information for external user access devices (**column 3, lines 3-8 and Figure 1**) and the unique section containing configuration information for each of the plurality of provisioning servers (**column 1, line 60-column 2, line 7 and column 3, lines 3-13**).
8. As per claim 3, Fenger et al teach the unique section comprises a plurality of private sections, each private section corresponding to the provisioning server to which it belongs (**column 1, line 60-column 2, lines 8, column 3, lines 31-55, and column 5, lines 16-36**).
9. As per claim 4, Fenger et al teach the global section is universally available to each of the plurality of provisioning servers (**column 3, lines 3-7 and column 2, lines 23-56**).
10. As per claim 5, Fenger et al teach a machine readable medium comprising machine readable instructions for causing a computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

storing configuration information for a plurality of provisioning servers in a central database (**column 1, lines 60- column 2, lines 56**);

storing configuration information for a plurality of user access devices in the central database (**column 1, line 60-column 2, line 7 and column 3, lines 3-13**); and

allowing access per provisioning server to its own configuration information and also to all the configuration information for the plurality of user access devices (**column 1, line 60-column 2, line 7**).

11. As per claim 6, Ferger et al teach tagging the configuration information for each of the plurality of provisioning servers with a unique identifier (**column 1, line 60-column 2, line 7**).

12. As per claim 7, Ferger et al teach assigning each provisioning server a unique identifier (**column 1, line 60-column 2, line 7**); and creating a plurality of private sections, each of the private sections containing provisioning information for one of the plurality of provisioning servers (**column 1, line 60-column 2, line 7, column 3, lines 40-55, and column 5, lines 16-36**).

13. As per claim 8, Ferger et al teach a method of provisioning multiple provisioning servers connected to a central directory server, comprising:

storing configuration information for a plurality of provisioning servers in a central database (**column 1, line 55-column 2, lines 40**);

storing configuration information for a plurality of user access devices in the central database (**column 1, lines 60-65, column 3, lines 3-8, and Figure 1**);

tagging the configuration information for the plurality of provisioning servers with a unique identifier for each provisioning server (**column 1, line 60 – column 2, line 8**); and

allowing access per provisioning server to its own configuration information and also to all the configuration information for the plurality of user access devices (**column 1, line 60 – column 2, line 67**).

14. As per claim 9, Ferger et al teach tagging the configuration information for each of the plurality of provisioning servers with a unique identifier (**column 1, line 65-column 2, line 8**).

15. As per claim 10, Ferger et al teach assigning each provisioning server a unique identifier (**column 1, line 65-column 2, line 8**); and creating a plurality of private sections, each of the private sections containing provisioning information for one of the plurality of provisioning servers (**column 1, line 60-column 2, line 7, column 3, lines 40-55, and column 5, lines 16-36**).

16. As per claim 11, Ferger et al teach a method of operating a provisioning system having a central directory server and a plurality of distributed provisioning servers, the method comprising:

receiving a request for configuration at the central directory server for one of the provisioning servers (**column 2, line 57-column 3, line 8**);

identifying the particular provisioning server requesting configuration (**column 2, line 57-column 3, line 8 and column 1, line 60-column 2, line 8**); and

configuring the particular provisioning server with configuration information unique to the particular provisioning server (**column 2, line 57-column 3, line 8 and column 1, line 60-column 2, line 40**).

17. As per claim 12, Ferger et al teach receiving a request from an external user access device at a configured provisioning server (**column 2, line 57-column 3, line 8**); accessing globally available configuration information on the central directory server by the configured provisioning server (**column 2, line 57-column 3, line 56**); and provisioning the user access device with the globally available configuration information (**column 2, lines 24-66**).

18. As per claim 13, Ferger et al teach a central directory server for multiple provisioning servers, comprising:

a computer having a processor, a memory, a mass storage element(**Figure 1, primary server**), and a network connection (**column 1, lines 6-7**); and

a database stored in the mass storage element (**column 1, lines 45-48**), the database comprising: a globally accessible portion containing provisioning information for external user access devices (**column 1, line 60- column 2, line 40**); and a restricted access portion containing configuration information for each of the provisioning servers (**column 1, line 60-column 2, line 40 and column 4, lines 10-65**)

19. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bahlmann (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,594)

20. As per claim 14, Bahlmann teaches a distributed provisioning server, comprising:
a DHCP server (**column 6, lines 1-13**);
a TFTP server (**column 6, lines 1-13**); and
a network connection for connecting to a central directory server (**column 2, lines 1-39**);
wherein the provisioning server is uniquely identified to the central directory server to obtain configuration information for the provisioning server and for user access devices attempting to connect to the provisioning server (**column 7, lines 5-14, column 2, lines 1-40, and column 3, lines 25-40**).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Kim et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,769)
- b. Bahlmann et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,594)
- c. Bahlmann et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,578,074)
- d. Crespo et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,854,112)
- e. Prager et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,918)
- f. Traversat et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,715).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Refai whose telephone number is (571) 272-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ramsey Refai
Examiner
Art Unit 2154

RR
February 18, 2005

 **JOHN FOLLANSBEE**
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100